Sl. No.	State	Cities planned to be covered	Total Lines Capacity Planned
4.	Jharkhand	16	54200
5.	North East	49	50800
6.	Orissa	38	114150
7.	West Bengal	35	108050
North			
8.	Haryana	40	111050
9.	Himachal Pradesh	20	34000
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	14	41200
11.	Punjab	62	290000
12.	Rajasthan	40	137650
13.	Uttar Pradesh	91	385750
14.	Uttaranchal	13	59350
South			
15.	Andhra Pradesh	94	595600
16.	Karnataka	26	307150
17.	Kerala	100	326585
18.	Tamil Nadu	68	465900
West			
19.	Gujarat	74	459750
20.	Madhya Pradesh	62	112900
21.	Chhattisgarh	07	22950
22.	Maharashtra	124	495300
	TOTAL :		4311435

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

207. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether TRAI is truly an independent body;

(b) if so, how;

(c) whether TRAI is providing genuine level playing field to the industry players; and

(d) how does TRAI compare with the regulators in developed countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has been empowered, under the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 to carry out functions as considered appropriate in the Indian conditions. The TRAI Act was amended in the year 2000 to strengthen the entire regulatory framework. TRAI is functioning independently in the discharge of the functions entrusted to it under the TRAI Act. TRAI has informed that it has formulated its regulations, and issued its directions and orders on the principles of non-discrimination and to ensure a level playing field; furthermore, all issues of key importance are decided through an open consultation process involving all stakeholders.

Rural teledensity

208. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rural teledensity is abysmally low in the villages as compared to urban teledensity indicating that most of the villages are still not connected by telephone;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the private operators have failed to implement their undertaking to extend their infrastructure to rural areas in order to obtain licences; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?